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The document prepared in defense of Visser de Boisvallé is especially interesting and received more than local consideration. This gentleman, lawyer, painter, botanist, natural philosopher, inventor, had put a lightning rod upon his house and was, because of this act, attacked by ill-intentioned and superstitious neighbors. The local authorities upheld the agitated people in their demand that this dangerous invention be destroyed. In this trial Robespierre was at his best, for it was characteristic of him to argue for a principle rather than a specific case. He defended the cause of experimentation and innovation as a necessary means to progress. He drew upon his fine classical learning for examples showing how the advancement of civilization had repeatedly been checked by ignorance, superstition, and intolerance. This trial attracted the attention of various scientific societies and even a wide circle of the more intelligent reading public of France.

The "mémoire" in behalf of François Déteuf, who was maliciously accused by a designing clergyman of theft, and the replication in defense of Marie Sommerville, who was arrested because of debt, are also interesting documents and help to reveal the Robespierre of the Revolution.

CARL CHRISTOPHELSMEIER.

*Francisco de Miranda: Général de Division des Armées de la République (1791-1794); Héros de l'Indépendance Américaine (1756-1816).* Par ALPH. Comte Ô KELLY DE GALWAY. [Les Généraux de la Révolution.] (Paris: Honoré Champion. 1913. Pp. 190.)

THIS book is a *mélange*. In that section of it which is incorrectly entitled biography are found excerpts from certain historical writers who have dealt with Miranda: Villanueva, Chuquet, Guinan. Among these excerpts are numerous brief sources: some are reprinted from the *Moniteur*, while others are unpublished documents from the Archives Nationales and from the archives of the Parisian police. Data are presented which concern Miranda's iconography: for example, there is an account of the names inscribed on the Arc-de-Triomphe at Paris. French translations are printed of two laws of Venezuela passed to commemorate Miranda's career as a revolutionary leader.

Another section of the book is entitled documents. A French translation of the baptismal certificate of Miranda appears here. A page deals with Miranda's descendants. A note embodies a reference to Miranda found in a letter preserved in the Musée Alexandre Dumas. The address which Miranda proposed to deliver to the National Convention in March, 1793, is printed from a pamphlet in the Bibliothèque Nationale. A group of documents follow which deal mainly with Miranda in 1792 and 1793: some of these documents were unpublished. Some of the documents concerning Miranda's trial in 1793 are taken from the collection edited by Aristides Rojas. In the same collection

was printed the *Extrait du procès-verbal* which de Galway prints on pages 150-169. He also prints some unpublished police reports on Miranda in 1793. In general these documents illustrate certain phases of Miranda's career in France.

Scattered through the book are a few unpublished documents which deal with Miranda and Spanish America. On pages 103-113 is an anonymous report on Miranda, apparently emanating from some person in London, which is wrongly ascribed to the year 1796. Three pages are occupied by an extract from a manuscript memoir written in 1801 by Jean-Baptiste Dubois. On pages 127-130 are printed two brief police reports on Miranda's activity in London in 1810. In the judgment of the reviewer, the contribution made by these documents to our knowledge of Miranda as a promoter of revolts in Spanish America is almost negligible.

Not all of the iconographic material deals with Miranda: one of the half-tones in the beginning of the volume is a picture of President Gomez of Venezuela; the other frontispiece is from the portrait of Miranda at Versailles. The picture of Miranda opposite page 16 is after a rare engraving by Bonneville preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale. On the next page is found a reproduction of the cut published in 1810 by Antepara. A picture of Señor José Gil Fortoul, the distinguished author and publicist of Venezuela, appears beside the painting of the Venezuelan artist, Martin Tovar y Tovar, which depicts the signing of the declaration of independence of Venezuela on July 5, 1811. The book also contains a half-tone of a painting by another Venezuelan artist, Arturo Michelena, which portrays Miranda in the prison of La Caracca at Cadiz. It contains a representation of the monument and statue erected to Miranda at Carácas as well as representations of a number of medals which have been struck to commemorate Miranda's military services. The author has made an interesting collection of the most accessible iconographic material which relates to Miranda.

At the end of the volume there is a very incomplete bibliography accompanied by a notice of the pieces of music which have been written in honor of Miranda and by a mention of the Venezuelan issue of postage stamps which bore his portrait. There is no index. This unsystematic book has a claim to a place among the curiosities of historical literature.

W. S. ROBERTSON.

*Robert Fulton, Engineer and Artist: his Life and Works.* By H. W. DICKINSON, A. M. I. Mech. E., Assistant Keeper, the Science Museum, South Kensington. (London and New York: John Lane. 1913. Pp. xiv, 333.)

THE author has special qualifications for the work he has done. His position has made the productions of the early days of steam engineering actualities and not merely dim historical mementos. Above all, his knowledge of engineering science has enabled him to analyze Fulton's